



Since Our Previous Newsletter...

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Acreage Question

We received a question about the actual acreage in Unit 5 (usually referred to as “the 5,000 acres in Placitas”). The total acreage figure includes almost all the BLM surface holdings in Unit 5, and is an approximate number rounded from the sum of the parcel acreages in Unit 5, including the new acquisition of the Crest of Montezuma. The exact acreage of each parcel is being “ground-truthed” and will be used in the RMP Revision itself.

Throughout April, our managers and staff held the nine public scoping meetings we notified you about. Thank you for your participation—over 100 of you met with us to discuss your concerns and ask questions. Many more of you submitted comments by letter or e-mail. We have analyzed your comments and summarized them in our Scoping Report (discussed below).

Our Interdisciplinary (ID) Team is working on the next step in the planning process, the “Analysis of the Situation” (AMS), Management Situation” which will describe the public land resources and uses in the Planning Area and our challenges, constraints and opportunities in managing

them. The initial part of the analysis will result in identification of the “No Action Alternative,” the baseline (current) management condition the ID Team will consider in developing other management alternatives. We will begin working on these other alternatives soon and hope to have them finished by the end of the calendar year. The AMS will be available on our web page.

We will continue to be available to meet with groups of concerned citizens to discuss your questions and concerns about public land management in the Rio Puerco Planning Area. Bear in mind that the public land in this area consists of almost a million acres distributed in six counties.



This yellow-colored primrose brightens the meadows of Cañon Jarido.

Beginning with this newsletter, we are including a section called, “For Your Information” (FYI). This section will include an explanation of a topic relating to the RMP and/or public land management in a bit more depth. If you have a topic you would like us to address, send us an e-mail or letter and we will consider it for future newsletters.

A Summary of Your Input—the Scoping Report

This report will be available after our State Director reviews it in early September. You may contact us for a CD or hard copy, or find it on our website, <http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Rio_Puerco_Field_Office/rpfo_rmp_revision.print.html>.

The report is based on your comments and our analysis of them. After the Scoping Report is released, you may view a hard copy of the specific comments at our office at 435 Montañito Road NE in Albuquerque on Monday and Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Further Input

Through close of business on September 30, 2008, we will take additional scoping comments. We suggest that you review the Scoping Report before making those comments. An addendum to the Scoping Report will be published sometime after the end of September.

FYI: Wild Horses and Burros



To ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands, the BLM protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority

of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195). Managing these animals is part of the agency's multiple-use mission under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

After an inventory within the state, the BLM established one herd management area [as defined at Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4710] in Socorro. Any horse located on BLM-administered land outside of a designated herd management area is considered to be a stray, a domestic animal that has wandered away from its home. The BLM may authorize such horses to use public

land under a lease or permit granted under the Taylor Grazing Act. The lease or permit is granted only to an acknowledged owner for a specific number of livestock on a designated grazing area for a certain amount of time (Title 43, U.S. Code, Sections 315-316, June 28, 1934, as amended 1936, 1938, 1939, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1954 and 1976; 43 CFR Part 4100).

One of the BLM's key responsibilities under the 1971 law is to determine the "appropriate management level" of wild horse and burro numbers on the public rangelands. These animals have virtually no natural predators and their

herd sizes can double about every 4 years. As a result, about 29,000 wild horses and burros roam BLM-managed lands in 10 Western states, a population that exceeds by about 2,500 the number that can exist in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses.

To help restore the balance, the BLM gathers some wild horses and burros and offers them for adoption or sale to those individuals and groups willing and able to provide humane, long-term care. (Note: Droughts and wildfires also influence how many wild horses and burros must be removed from public land annually.)

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